

Women in the Military tribute, ‘Proudly She Serves’ gala planned

The Tribute to Women in the Military and the “Proudly She Serves” Gala are **March 5** in the Hilton Hotel, 1901 University Northeast.

The conference includes remarks by U.S. Rep. Heather Wilson and New Mexico Gov. Bill Richardson. The conference includes workshops, exhibits and an open panel discussion.

First workshops 9:15-10 a.m.

- ★ Women and Heart Disease
- ★ Identity Theft Seminar
- ★ Achieving Financial Abundance
- ★ Sexual Assault

Second workshops 10:15-11 a.m.

- ★ Hormone Replacement Therapy
- ★ Self Protection
- ★ Living Alone and Being Financially Secure
- ★ Posttraumatic Stress Disorder

Third workshops 11:15-11:55 a.m.

- ★ Domestic Violence
- ★ Education and GI Benefits
- ★ Vocational Rehabilitation
- ★ Posttraumatic Stress Disorder

Registration for the tribute is \$15 until **Feb. 20** and \$20 after that date.

Dinner-dance

The dinner-dance gala starts with cocktails at 6 p.m. and opening ceremonies, 7-7:15 p.m. Dinner is until 8:30 p.m. Awards will be presented until 9 p.m., followed by dancing until midnight.

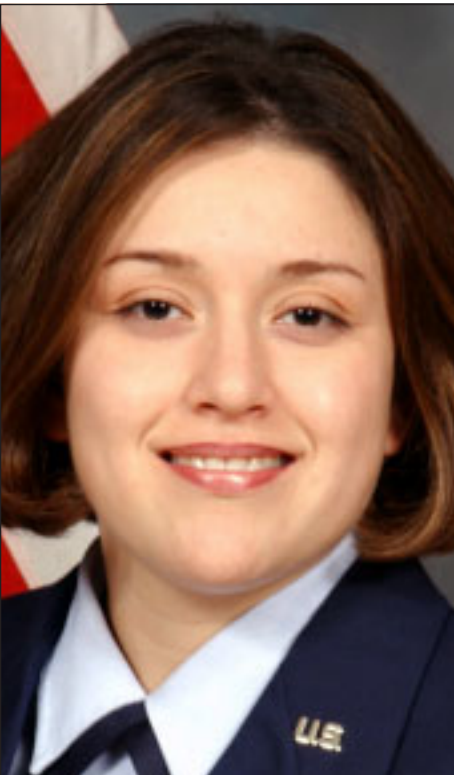
Tickets are \$20 for a single and \$38 a couple. Entrees are salmon en croute, ranchers style sirloin and vegetarian platter.

Make checks payable to VVNM/VVA-TRIBUTEXIX and send them to Tribute XIX, P.O. Box 91775, Albuquerque, N.M. 87199-1775.

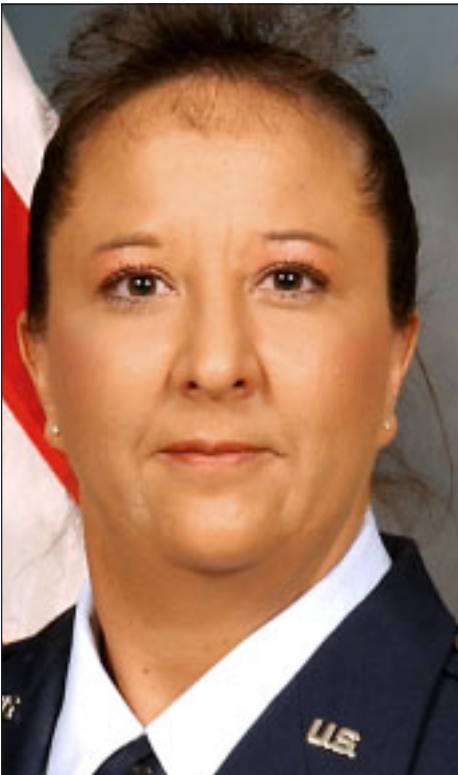
For information, contact Lt. Col. Dorothy Silvanic, 846-0063, or Master Sgt. Jacqueline Pennington-Colvil, 846-7525. For registration, contact Betty Brooks, 821-1092.



Comptrollers nab top honors at AFMC



**STAFF SGT. ALMA SHIPP**  
AFMC Financial Management and Comptroller Noncommissioned Officer of the Year



**1ST LT. MICHELLE L. PAQUET**  
AFMC Financial Services Officer of the Year



**LOUIS F. NORRIS**  
AFMC Resource Advisor of the Year-Installation Level  
377th Services Squadron

Indecent assault gets Airman prison, discharge, demotion

**BY CAPT. TERRENCE MCCOLLOM**  
377th Air Base Wing Legal Office

Senior Airman Alfredo E. Preciado, 377th Security Forces Squadron, was convicted in a general court-martial on Jan. 27 of committing an indecent assault on a female Airman.

The accused was deployed in the spring of 2003. Based upon local threat conditions in the deployed location, military personnel were restricted to base. After a night of drinking at the club, the accused indecently assaulted another intoxicated Airman.

Airman Preciado’s assault was interrupted when other Airmen returned to the tent and observed Airman Preciado’s actions. Airman Preciado was charged with attempted rape and indecent assault.

Airman Preciado pled guilty to the indecent assault and not guilty to attempted rape.

He elected to be tried by a military judge alone and was found guilty of the charge of indecent assault. The government dismissed the attempted rape charge in exchange for Airman Preciado’s guilty plea on the indecent assault charge.

During its sentencing argument, the government argued Airman Preciado exercised more than just poor judgment when he betrayed the trust of his fellow Airmen and the Air Force that night. The government argued that the accused’s intoxication was neither a justification nor a legal excuse for his assault.

The defense argued that the federal conviction Airman Preciado received as a result of his guilty plea was punishment enough. The area defense counsel, Capt. Kimani Eason, stressed that Airman Preciado had accepted responsibility for his crimes and that the government presented no evidence of direct victim impact.

The military judge, Col. Jack Anderson, sentenced Airman Preciado to a bad conduct discharge, 15 months confinement, and reduction to E-1.

Circuit Trial Counsel in the case was Capt. John Degnan and assistant trial counsel was Maj. Tiffany Dawson of the Kirtland AFB Legal Office.

Major Dawson said, “Taking advantage of a fellow Airman was inexcusable. Airman Preciado destroyed the trust that his fellow airmen and the Air Force placed in him. The court’s decision has made it clear that the Air Force will not tolerate misconduct that demonstrates an egregious disregard for others and basic standards of conduct.”

New act limits states’ tax on military pay

**BY JOHN FORD**  
Kirtland AFB VITA Tax Center

Congress has passed the *Servicemembers Civil Relief Act*, which is an update and expansion of the 1940 *Soldiers’ and Sailors’ Civil Relief Act*.

There are many financial and legal protections for military members in this new law, but in the area of state income taxation, the law prohibits a state from using a military member’s pay to determine the tax on the member’s non-military income. It also prohibits a state from using the military member’s pay to determine the state tax on that member’s non-military spousal income.

In practical terms, if a military member has a second job, the earnings from that job cannot be taxed at a rate determined with reference to that member’s military pay. Also, if a non-military spouse has earnings, those earnings must be taxed without regard to the military member’s pay.

Problems usually occur when fil-

ing non-resident tax returns, or when spouses file as residents and military members as non-residents.

Twenty states (California, Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, Iowa, Kansas, Maine, Minnesota, Montana, North Dakota, Nebraska, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, Ohio, Oklahoma, Rhode Island, Utah, Wisconsin and West Virginia) were in conflict with this new law when it passed in December 2003.

In the case of New Mexico, if a military member is required to use the Form PIT-B to file a state income tax return, then under the current procedures, there would be no way for the member to file a valid tax return.

Because the law passed in late December, and because most if not all of these states had already published their tax forms, regulations and procedures for the current year, the states have had to create last second revisions to bring their practices into conformance with the law.

As of the end of January, a number of states have done so, but the changes have not yet trickled down to the various software packages used across the nation. This is the case for the Kirtland AFB VITA Tax Center. The software package that is supplied to the VITA sites by the Internal Revenue Service is not capable of completing many state tax returns in accordance with the new law.

This does not affect preparation of federal income tax returns. The Kirtland AFB VITA site can still prepare federal tax returns without a problem.

IT expects that the software will be updated within a few weeks. Anyone who needs to delay their state tax return preparation because of this law should call 853-1700 for an appointment after March 1.

In making the appointment, please be sure to indicate whether you have already had your federal return prepared at the Kirtland AFB VITA Tax Center.



# 377th Air Base Wing names people of year



**DELIA ECKERMAN**  
Civilian of the Year Category I  
377th Services Squadron



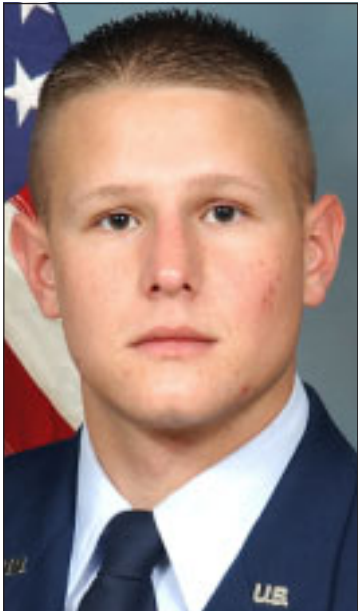
**NICHOLAS GILBERT**  
Civilian of the Year Category II  
377th Medical Operations Squadron



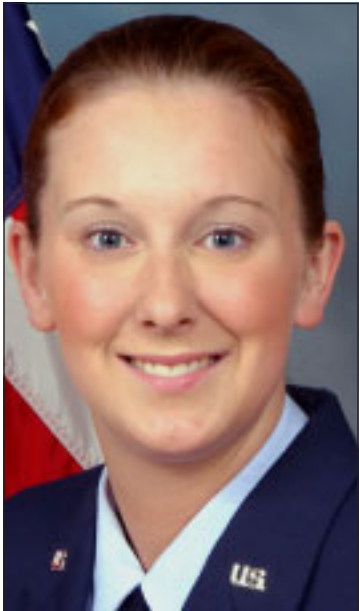
**SUSAN PEARSON**  
Civilian of the Year Category III  
377th Medical Support Squadron



**CHRISTINA KRISINGER**  
Civilian of the Year Category IV  
377th Medical Operations Squadron



**AIRMAN 1ST CLASS RORY BAUMGARTEN**  
Airman of the Year  
377th Contracting Squadron



**STAFF SGT. ERIN LANDERS**  
Noncommissioned Officer of the Year  
377th Mission Support Squadron



**SENIOR MASTER SGT. JOHN HARRISON**  
Senior Noncommissioned Officer of the Year  
377th Medical Operations Squadron



**1ST LT. DONALD NEWTON**  
Company Grade Officer of the Year  
898th Munitions Squadron

## Space and Missile Systems Center Det. 12 picks quarter's best



**CAPT. CRAIG PHILLIPS**  
Company Grade Officer of the Quarter  
Chantilly, VA



**1ST LT. WILLIAM EMMER**  
Company Grade Officer of the Quarter  
Kirtland AFB



**TECH. SGT. PAUL ROBINSON**  
Noncommissioned Officer of the Quarter



**MARILOU COCHRAN**  
Civilian of the Quarter Category II



**VIRGIE HENDERSON**  
Civilian of the Quarter Category IV

## Nominations open for Guard, Reserve employer support award

**WASHINGTON (AFPN)**—DOD is accepting nominations for the 2004 Secretary of Defense Employer Support Freedom Award, which recognizes significant contributions and sacrifices made by

employers of National Guard and Reserve members. For the first time since the awards program was established in 1966, nominations may be submitted by anyone who has knowledge of a

company or organization deserving the award. Previously, only Guardsmen and Reservists could submit nominations. In addition, Defense officials expect to increase the number of

awards from five to as many as 15. Nominations will be accepted at the ESGR Web site, [www.esgr.org](http://www.esgr.org), through March 15. Recipients will be recognized during Sept. 21 ceremonies in Washington.